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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,049	03/05/2002	Juergen Weese	DE010177	6451
24737	7590	01/06/2005	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			BAYAT, ALI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,049

Applicant(s)

WEESE ET AL.

Examiner

Ali Bayat

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2002.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 7-10 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/3/03 and 3/5/02.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Items (e, f, g, h) are missing in section heading; the specification should include the following sections in order (e, f, g, h).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 11 is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Because the terminology "A computer program" alone has no set definition. The following claim formats are acceptable and not subject to a 101 rejection "A computer program embodied in a computer readable medium for performing the steps of ..." and "A computer readable medium storing a program for performing the steps of ...". See MPEP 2106.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 3-4, 7 and 9-10 objected to because of the following informalities: the dashes in front of sentences need to be deleted and punctuation needs to be corrected. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Madden et al. (U.S. 6,124,864).

In regard to claim 1, Madden provides for a method of segmenting a selected region from a multi-dimensional dataset (Fig. 2 elements 50 and 60), which method

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comprises the steps of setting-up a shape model representing the general outline of the selected region (Fig.2 element 50, col.6 lines 25-37); setting-up an adaptive mesh (Fig.2 element 80, col.6 lines 55-60) representing an approximate contour of the selected region (Fig.2 element 60, col.6 lines 38-46, also col.14 lines 49-55); which adaptive mesh (Fig.2 element 80) is initialized on the basis of the shape model (Fig.7 element 108, col. 17 lines 9-16), and deformed in dependence of the shape model (Fig.2 element 50) and on feature information (Fig.2 element 60)of the selected region (Fig.2 element 42).

With regard to claim 2, Madden provides for a method of segmenting a selected region, wherein the shape model is updated upon deformation of the adaptive mesh (Fig.7, element 108).

As to claim 3, Madden provides for a method, wherein on or more local surface patches of the selected region are detected (Fig.2 element 42, col.6 lines 20-30) and the mesh is deformed in dependence of the local orientation of the mesh relative to the local surface patch(es) (Fig.4A element 51-8, col. 8 lines 63-65).

With regard to claim 7, Madden provides for a method of segmenting a selected region, wherein the mesh adaptation is performed on the basis of optimizing a value of an energy function (Fig.7 element 111, col. 17 lines 18-25); the energy function having an internal energy contribution that depends on the shape model (Fig.2 element 50), and an external energy contribution that depends on feature information of the selected region (Fig.2 element 60) and the actual configuration of the adaptive mesh (Fig.2 element 80).

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As to claim 8, Madden provides for a method of segmenting a selected region, wherein the energy function includes a weighted combination of the internal energy contribution (Fig.2 element 50) and the external energy contribution (Fig.2 element 60), involving adjustable weight factors (Fig.2 element 80).

In regard to claim 9. See rejected claim 1 above. It recites similar limitations as claim 9. Except for a data processor (Fig.1 element 28, col.5 line 63). Hence it is similarly analyzed and rejected.

With regard to claim 10. See rejected claim 1 above. It recites similar limitations as claim 10. Except for a computer program (col.6 lines 1-4). Hence it is similarly analyzed and rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Bayat whose telephone number is 703-306-5915. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 9:00-7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 703-3085246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ali Bayat *AB*
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2625
12/31/04

Kanji Patel
KANJIBHAI PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER